

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-16 are pending in the present application. Claim 2 is cancelled by the present response without prejudice and claims 15 and 16 are added. Each of claims 1, 3-6, 11, and 12 is amended by the present response. No new matter is believed to have been added by the present response.

Claims 1-9 and 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 5,995,966 to Kii et al. (herein "Kii") in view of U.S. patent 5,880,445 to Mori et al. (herein "Mori"). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kii as modified by Mori and further in view of U.S. patent 6,498,987 to Kelly et al. (herein "Kelly").

Addressing the above-noted rejections, those rejections are traversed by the present response.

It is initially noted that each of the independent claims as amended by the present response clarify features recited therein.

More particularly, claim 1 is amended by the present response to incorporate certain features from now cancelled dependent claim 2, and to make further clarifications.

Specifically, independent claim 1 now initially further recites:

a memory including a message table and plural word/phrase tables, the message table including an attribute and a corresponding message column storing message data for each attribute in the attribute column, the corresponding message data being acquired from the word/phrase tables;

Independent claim 1 now also further recites:

wherein a said message creator accesses the message table and acquires at least one word or phrase corresponding to the at least attribute, from the plural word/phrase tables, and creates the message using the acquired word or phrase.

The other independent claims 11 and 12 are similarly amended.

Such features clarified in the claims are reflected in the original specification, for example in Figures 3A-3G and Figure 4. With respect to Figure 4 in the present specification as a non-limiting example, in the claimed invention a message table (see for example Figure 3G) can be accessed and different attributes indicated therein can be checked to determine whether any appropriate message is provided corresponding to the different attributes. The different messages that can be stored with respect to the different attributes can be acquired from plural word/phrase tables. With such an operation, a card that can have re-recordable information stored thereon can always have up-to-date information for each of different attributes. Further, the claimed invention utilizes a specific data structure utilizing a message table and plural word/phrase tables to allow the different attributes and corresponding word/phrase information to be readily available and to be easily placed onto the re-recordable message card.

The above-noted features are believed to distinguish over the applied art.

Kii discloses the use of different tables in Figure 4. However, Kii does not disclose or suggest the use of both a message table and plural word/phrase tables as in the claims. Again with reference to Figure 3G in present specification as a non-limiting example, in the claims a specific message table corresponding different attributes in a column to different messages is provided, and those different messages from the message table are accessed from separate word/phrase tables, see for example Figures 3B-3D. Such a structure clarified in the claims is believed to distinguish over noted teachings in Kii.

Moreover, no teachings in Mori or Kelly are believed to overcome the deficiencies noted above with respect to Kii.

In such ways, each of the pending claims is believed to distinguish over the applied art.

With respect to dependent claim 10, applicant initially notes that claim is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein. Support for the amendments to claim 10 are believed to be found in the original specification at page 15, lines 13-16, Figure 10, and page 23, lines 9-19, as examples only. At those portions the specification discloses that an e-mail sender sends a generated message to the e-mail address stored in the memory, by e-mail.

As claim 10 depends on claim 1, claim 10 is also believed to be allowable.

The present response also sets forth new claims 15 and 16 for examination. Those new claims are believed to be fully supported by the original specification and are believed to further distinguish over any applied art.

Claim 15 is supported, as an example, by the original specification at page 17, line 25, to page 8, line 2, which discloses that a message to be printed on a card can be re-written by heat. Figure 2 of the present specification also discloses a message system that includes a card processing device in which the memory, the message creator, the printer, the recorder, and the reader are integrated. As noted is the present specification at page 15, lines 10-12, generation of a message starts by inserting a card into a card processing device. As noted in the specification at page 7, line 25, to page 8, line 2, and page 10, lines 22-25, the printer re-writes the message on the card by heat.

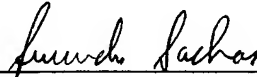
Claim 16 is supported by the original specification at, for example, page 22, lines 16-19, and page 23, lines 9-19.

Each of new claims 5 and 16 at least indirectly depend from independent claim 1, and thus are also believed to be allowable. Those claims are believed to set forth even further features neither taught nor suggested by the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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